Bay Area Atari Users Group

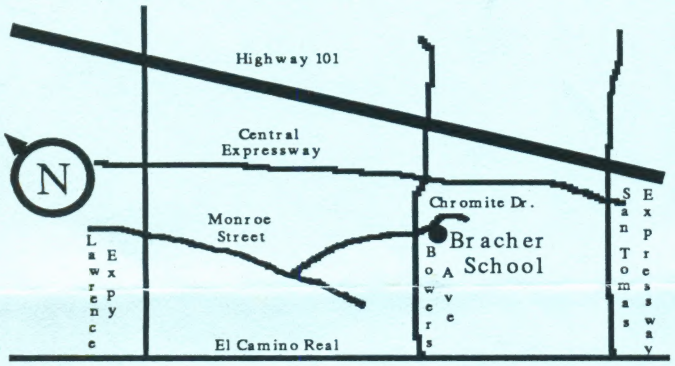
$2.00 USA

NEWSLETTER

August 1987

ATTENTION !

Meeting Location



Next Meeting - Monday - August 3, 1987

Bracher School Cafeteria

Corner of BOWERS & CHROMITE

in SANTA CLARA, CA

fom 7:00 P.M. to 9:45 P.M.

B.A.A.U.G. Roster of Officers:

President:
Mike R. Burnham (408) 247-0989

Vice-President:
Kathy Standifird (408) 739-4920

Secretary:
Simon Cotton (408) 296-1620

Treasurer:
Pete T. Cardamone Jr. (408) 996-3839

Software Librarians:
8-Bit: Bill Richerson (408) 446-2242
ST: Bruce Coleman (408) 288-7376

Document Librarian:
Doug Thompson (415) 961-0353

Bulletin Board & Sysop:
Greg Kranich (408) 358-1520

Newsletter Co-Editors:
Joe Fischer (408) 988-3065
Frank Nagle (408) 720-8131

Program Chairman:
Alex Tweedly (415) 424-8190

Member-at-Large:
Sue Tempey (415) 967-7629

Past President:
Frank Nagle (408) 720-8131

Baaug was founded by
John Crane & Clyde Spencer

Inside This Issue:

- o Meeting Minutes
- o Chicago 'Fest' Cancelled
- o Knarf's Korner
- o New Format
- o Pub Partner Import
- o And More ...

THIS IS A NOTICE THAT THE ATARIFEST, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR CHICAGO ON THE 25TH AND 26TH OF JULY, 1987, HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CANCELLED.

There were several reasons for doing this, but FIRST and FOREMOST, let me dispell three major rumors that have been spread about the 'Fest in Chicago.

FIRST: The 'Fest in Chicago did NOT at ANY time have any problems with the unions. This is a rumor spread out of Michigan through a misunderstanding on their part, and has not at any time been true.

SECOND: Last Spring, a Wisconsin group started rumors that the Chicago 'Fest was cancelled - at THAT time. WRONG! It may be now, but not previously.

THIRD AND FOREMOST: ATARI DID NOT PULL THE PLUG ON THE CHICAGO FEST. The decision to pull the plug was made by the two Chicago area groups that did all of their work - Lake County Atari Computer Enthusiasts (LCACE), and the ChicagoLand Atari User's Group (CLAUG). It is my understanding from Neil Harris, that at least one downstate Illinois group has been spreading the 'Word' (read RUMOR) that Atari Corp. pulled the plug. Not true. Atari DID advise us that if the fest looked real shaky that it might be best to drop the show and reschedule, but it was our decision. This we chose to do.

WHY THE 'FEST FAILED

There are several reasons why the 'fest failed. We had planned the show to be held in a local Ramada Inn. Now, I don't know how much of a guarantee other groups in hotels had to give, but the best deal we could come up with was a 100 room per night guarantee plus a substantial fee for the 12700 sq. ft. hall. This IS high compared to other cities, but very reasonable around here. We went with this for several reasons. There were NO unions to consider. The Hotel was within a couple blocks of O'hare airport, and within a mile of several Interstate highways. Food and rooms were available on the premesis.

To cover the expenses of the hall, booths, power, etc., we had to have a minimum of 30 vendors to pass the break-even point. As of 15 June, only 5 had bothered to commit with money - the rest gave a bunch of excuses about not scheduling budgets more than 30 days in advance, and the like. What these companies fail to realize is that we needed their downpayments in advance so we could cover our own expenses. What it finally came down to was that we were looking at a $6000.00 committment for the hotel alone, with only 5 vendors. Our phone calls and letters to the lagging companies failed to do any good - they wouldn't even send a downpayment. Last October when Sandi was in town, we were told that if we had trouble getting vendors to commit, that Atari would give them a push for us. In May, we went to Sandi, and were told then that she couldn't do that, and we were on our own. We found out too late from Neil Harris, that this was NOT the official Atari position.

Secondly, The groups involved were spread out over too wide an area. In all, there were over 300 miles between the northernmost (Militari) and southernmost (BASE) groups with CLAUG, LCACE, SCAT, and RACC in between. Those of you who are thinking about organizing a fest, keep that in mind. It is impossible to keep in good contact over a large distance without running up extraordinarily large phone or gas bills. We also had a problem with meeting attendance. When the meetings were held after the Suburban Chicago (SCAT) meetings, almost all six groups attended (except Militari, who only attended two or three meetings through the whole course of events). When the meetings were unanimously scheduled after the CLAUG or LCACE meetings, SCAT, RACC, and Militari never showed up - even when there was no conflict with their own meetings - and these accounted for half of the committee meetings. You cannot communicate if you don't show up for the meetings. Bear in mind that all attending groups agreed on the next meeting dates and places before a time and place was definitely set.

Lastly, if a group volunteers to perform a specific job, it is up to them to make sure it is done. In our case, Militari volunteered to copy and compile the packet for our second mailings. After they volunteered, we never heard from them again. The Suburban Chicago group volunteered to do the first and second mailings to vendors, and the mailing to dealers - in short, to fill the hall with exhibitors. They also volunteered to do all the printing and the ticket design to help fulfil the obligations of the Rockford group. The second vendor package mailings were eventually done by LCACE instead of Militari and SCAT,) and the printing was done by CLAUG and LCACE. To top it off, we found out on 6 June that the tickets had not even been designed yet - much less had any printed for pre-show sales (a VITAL part of our plan,) nor had they done any dealer mailings - after telling us for well over a month that it had all been taken care of.

In view of the short time before we could no longer cancel, the lack of support from Sandi, absolutely NO advance ticket sales and the fact that we were hitting a stone wall with vendors (other than the 5 we had) we decided to cancel. We are currently thinking of completely re-organizing the committee with a rescheduled date next year, but nothing has been decided yet. If we do reschedule, you can bet there will be several MAJOR changes made from the first attempt.

If you have any questions, comments, or (hopefully) suggestions, leave mail on GENIE to G.FEID, on CompuServe to number 74146,162, or on the 'Once In A BLUE MOON' BBS at 312-457-2219 - 24 hours a day, 300/1200 baud.

New Importer for Publishing Partner

by F.P.Nagle

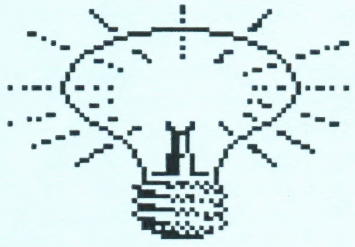
After having used Publishing Partner for some time, and having gone through the editing necessary when importing text files, and using the Import Accessory that didn't seem to work right all the time, I decided to write my own import program to work with any ASCII file that does not use right justification.

The rules for using this program are simple. Use your favorite word processing program to write your articles, then save it in ASCII format. DO NOT USE RIGHT JUSTIFICATION.

At the end of a paragraph, enter THREE carriage returns. Why three, well I had a SPECIAL request for the ability to enter headings without a blank line between the heading and the text. So, two carriage returns will produce the special effect of a heading without a blank line, while three carriage returns will give you a blank line between paragraphs. The program was written in Personal Pascal, and will be made available through the BAAUG ST disk of the month. It will also be available on the BAAUG BBS when I have a chance to upload it.

The program itself is fairly easy to use, there is only one item in the menu, FILES, and it has two options, CONVERT or QUIT. When you select CONVERT, a file selector box will open up for you to select the input file. Once you have done this, the program will prompt you for the name of an output file. Enter any legal file name here (suggest the extender be .TXT since that's what Publishing Partner is looking for).

Once you have done this, the program will run fairly quickly to convert the file, and you will be presented with the blank screen again. Just QUIT the program, run Publishing Partner and import your new file. Of course you may still have some changes to make to finalize the layout, but I've found that all the work I've done lately has been acceptable for Publishing Partner with little effort.



NEW LOOK FOR BAAUG

by F.P Nagle

This month we are trying a little different approach to the publication of the newsletter. After writing a conversion program to import files into Publishing Partner, both Joe and I decided to try and put the entire newsletter together using PP.

This is the result that you now hold in your hands. As I write this article everything so far has been put into PP format. After saving all the files and articles to disk, we then approached B&C Computervision to print the files out on their laser printer. This was the original then submitted to the printer for duplication. We would appreciate hearing any of your comments regarding the print size, style, etc. We are especially interested in readability of the document.

Until next time ----

HAPPY ATARIING

Editors Note: The following articles have been downloaded from some of the national services for inclusion in our newsletter. Hope you find the information helpful.

#: 66890 S5/Business Users 16-Jun-87 21:11:04
Sb: Info on PC-Ditto Fm: David and Sandy Small 76606,666 To: Pc-Ditters

I spent awhile on the phone with Avant-Garde (like three hours) talking about PC-Ditto, so I thought I'd pass some info along, since there's a lot of curiousity about it.

Jerry called me up from Comdex and said it was amazingly good. He'd done all the things like under the table for a PC or inside for an 8088; it's a software emulator, all right. Then, he got a bunch of his own software to test it on.. and lo and behold, it worked. He ran LapLink and DesqView on it, and while he says it's slow, it does work. Apparently the emulation is at the chip level.

The guy who did it is an ex-IBM'er and sales type -- he was a pro salesman, believe me -- who's working on it with his wife. Mom and pop shop, so to speak. They've had lots of marketing offers and are very very busy. Don't expect to get through on the phone, it's always busy.

My own experience with emulators is that you lose a 4X in clock speed with necessary overhead. So I'd expect about a 1-2 Mhz IBM out of this. The good thing is that I/O is done at 68000 speed, 8 Mhz, so it will only appear slow when you get computation-bound..like recalcing a spreadsheet. Burt just copying files, etc, it ought to scream along pretty nicely.

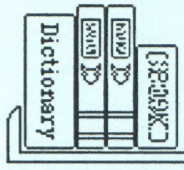
The big thing that they told me was they wanted everyone to know they weren't connected at all with the MS-EM people. Apparently they had received mucho negative feedback on that other product.

They've tested and certified it with lots of different IBM products; they went through a top-40 IBM product list and it ran all that stuff. The guy who's doing it sounds technically competent and is a good salesman.

Caveat: this is all based on a telephone conversation, but he does know what he's doing with emulators, and it's for real.

I'd suggest getting them online on CIS a.s.a.p. to answer questions. It sounds like it'll be a good product.

-- Dave



For Your Information

(This review has been reprinted with the permission of the Faster Disk Magazine. For more information contact Frank Cohen, the author of Regent Base on Compuserve (72457,3171), Genie (FCOHEN) and Delphi (REGENTWARE).)

REVIEW OF REGENT WORD II

by Normand Brassard

After offering the Atari ST users several programs such as Regent Spell, Regent Word and Regent Base, REGENT SOFTWARE has now released a more sophisticated word processor, the Regent Word II.

The software comes on one disk, well packaged and with a short and concise, but accurate instruction book.

After booting up Regent Word II and without even reading the document (which is something that, of course, became very useful later), I noted the simplicity of the program and its user friendly quality. I loaded an old ASCII file on it, to realize that a nice standard format took place on the screen with a 5 spaces left margin and the old right margin preserved.

I started editing the text to immediately appreciate the incredible speed of the EDITOR, scrolling up and down as well as deleting and moving words and large blocks. The speed at which these operations took place, I had never seen before on the ST and this, I thought was the first major advantage of Regent Word II.

So after reading the instruction book, I discovered and explored the second big quality of the software, the use of a buffer system where it places the blocks and then deletes them or replaces them in the new selected location on demand.

I found this use of the buffer a great advantage for the situations where changing location of a block or multiple re- copying of the same block was necessary.

The third major quality is in fact its footnote capacity, top or bottom page or right in the text. I found this application a very useful feature that has not been available on a simple fully GEM supported Word Processor on the ST yet.

Regent Word II also offers a large selection of printer drivers immediately available at the click of the mouse from the print drop menu.

An impressive selection of "19+1" printer drivers is already supplied with one "other" for non standard printers. Also, the option of changing or creating a driver is supported.

Furthermore, Regent Word II is also file compatible with Regent Base and a mail merge capacity comes as a great asset to the software.

The word processor, in spite of its exceptional simplicity, comes very complete with full information on board, like word count, pages and lines, a document save option in ASCII or Regent Word format, an editing menu with insert mode, type over mode, a block editor with copy, move and style and the document rulers at the top of the first page, releasing the informations on the status of the document formats (margins, page breaks, headers and footers and justification on or off).

The Search drop menu is also available with the search and replace options for one or many words. Also a Special drop menu is found. This provides several useful options.

A 30,000 words spelling checker is included as well as many other interesting additions like a basic calculator, a help function as a commands definitions reminder and keys for each function, a unique alphabetize function to put names or items in alphabetical order and a go to line # function for programmers.

So, you can see from the description above, that Regent Word II is undoubtedly a step forward in the field of word processing on the ST.

In spite of that fact, it is not free of weaknesses. For instance, the one complete crash that occurred while editing and using the back space key at the same time as the mouse could not be explained and we must confess that we could never repeat the incident.

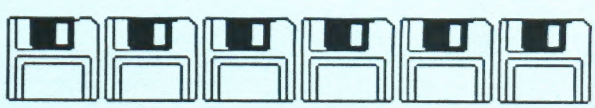
Another point that could be considered weak is the absence of support for graphics, but this can be qualified as a little beyond the purposes of a word processor. It would still be a considerable asset to the software.

Finally, Regent Word II doesn't support ASCII code characters like "ESC" codes. However, aside from these little inconveniences, the program is certainly a first choice for a day to day high quality word processor.

Hopefully, you can draw your own conclusion from this review. I haven't tried to describe here every feature of Regent Word II, as the instruction book that comes with the software serves that purpose very well. I have simply insisted on the features that have impressed on me the most, and I'm aware of the incompleteness of the "description". Try it and see! It may very well prove to be the word processor YOU are looking for!

Regent Word II is a trademark of:

Regent Software
7131 Owensmouth #45A
Canoga Park, CA 91303
(818) 882-2800



STABLE MOUSE

by Matt Chandler

TURBMOUS.TXT

I recently made the change to a new (and modified) mouse for my 1040 ST.

Always mad because Kensington did not come out with a Turbomouse for the ST - I called them, and they said they have no such plans - I decided to do something about it.

While paging through the Computer Shopper, I noticed a little ad placed by ZEBRA SYSTEMS, and they were offering a "converted WICO TRACK BALL" for 29.95, that would work with the ST.

At that price, I was afraid it would be a piece of junk, only to find out (when it arrived) that it was a very high quality track ball.

When I plugged'er in to the ST, it worked fine! "Great," I said to myself. Now I finally have a "sort" of Turbomouse.

But the two buttons for the trackball were on the top left side, and the modification Zebra Systems did were to make the extra button - it origanally had only one button - right below the factory made button. This button was about 1/4 the size of the unmodified one. Every time I "reached" for one of the buttons, it took time, and sometimes I would brush the trackball with my palm.

"No good," I said to myself. Off to Radio Shack. I asked the clerk if they had any micro-switch buttons about the size of a flipper button on a pinball machine. No such luck.

I went to 2 local electronic wholesalers, and they also said they did'nt "really" carry anything like this.

I forgot about it for the next 2 days. Who in the heck would have what I needed - in case you have'nt figured out what I was looking for, I was searching for 2 buttons that I could re-locate on the top of the mouse case, to make it easier to hit the buttons.

Having a "brain-storm", trying to think if I had any thing around the house that would work, it finally "clicked".

Went to the front door, opened it, and pressed the doorbell. Wha-la!! I quickly went to the local hardware store (I was in such a hurry, I forgot to take a shower) I asked this young kid (I think he was high) where the doorbells were. And I found two buttons that cost me a total of $3.80 .

Sped home, and proceeded to take the top cover off the Wico Track Ball. I decided to mount these "doorbell" buttons on the lower right and lower left sides of the track ball. The wireing consisted of screwing two wires to each doorbell. The mounting of the doorbell switch was nothing more than drilling two holes (for the doorbell) and one hole in the middle (for the wires) for each doorbell.

Put the cover back on, and plugged the Trackball into slot one, thinking to myself that this would now dominate that slot.

The results. It works GREAT!!!

The 2 doorbell buttons are raised in such a way that, while resting my hand on the trackball, my thumb and finger rest on the casing of the doorbell buttons, and kind of "suspends" my fingers above the ball, giving my a very great deal of control of just where I want the cursor arrow to go. Very stable. If I was'nt too busy, I would market this myself but anyone can do it, so it's not the great of an idea.

Anyway, I left the previous buttons still attached, as I did not have caps to put over the holes that would result if I removed them.

Also, I think it works as well (dare I say better?) than the $100.00 Turbomouse. My brother has a MAC with the Turbomouse, and I've used it quite a bit. I can say the this conversion seems to have more stability while rolling the ball. And it's stationary!! No more running in to disks or ashtrays, while trying to pull out of a spin in FSII. And the total cost I incurred was $36.95 !! , plus time involed.

One warning. If you do this, open the trackball face up, and watch for the springs that will fly out if you're not carefull. I must admit, I still can't figure out where the springs go, but it works just fine without them. I think they have no funtion. If anyone does this, let me know if you know were (and what) the springs are supposed to do.

Also, if you try this and have any problems,

send to the E-mail number below, although you should'nt, as it is so easy! Or just let me know what you think. I would be neat to make a good contribution to the network, as I have learned so much from it.

Also, here is a list of things I used and needed for the conversion.

1- Wico Trackball (for the ST) from Zebra Systems they charged me $29.95 plus shipping. They said it was backordered, but took no more than 10 days.

Phone # 1-800-235-2330

Total cost--------$32.95

2- Doorbell buttons. Part # 126 oblong push button. 2-3/4" x 3/4" (they are not that big)
Made by Eagle Electric Mfg. Co. INC.
Long Island, N.Y. 11101
(or just go to the hardware store, and see what they have).

Total cost--------$ 3.80

4- 1" long thin bolts with nuts for mounting the doorbell to the casing.

Total cost--------$ .20

Total cost of conversion----------$36.95

One more thing. If you have to drill out the doorbell holes in order to make a larger bolt fit through it, be careful!! Doorbell buttons are not made like they used to make'em.

This conversion is thereby named "STablemouse" (I get to name it, because I thought of it first (I hope).

Good luck!

Matt Chandler (72667,3321 on Compuserve or "M.Chandler" on Genie).

P>S> You're going to like it!.....And at a reasonable price. Goodbye Apple!!!

P>S>S I uploaded this letter about an hour after I did the conversion, and I still am giddy about how it works!!!

ST SCAN FROM NAVARONE

'Small But Beautiful'

by Richard Murray 75236,423

I want one thing undestood at the beginning. When I'm involved in a desktop publishing project , whether it be a brochure, an advertisment, a flyer or creating a logo, I absolutely refuse to use sizzors, graphic art tools or rubber cement. After investing thousands of dollars in computer equipment over the past few years it would be humiliating to resort to using such "low tech" paraphernalia. Consequently I have spent hours on end creating line art drawings with DEGAS, PUBLISHING PARTNER, or whatever else was handy.

When Navarone Industries announced that ST SCAN was ready for shipment, I called them immediately and said "Gimme!". When I hung up the phone, I thought "Darn, why didn't I tell them to ship it overnight air!"

I waited for a solid week for my precious bundle to arrive (actually it was only six days but it seemed like a week).

The outside of the package said CANNON IX-8/12; "Wait a minute. Don't tell me they ship the interface unit separately!". Once opened I was relieved to find the Navarone interface and cable stacked on top of the scanner.

Let me describe the equipment. First of all, the scanner itself is surprisingly compact. It measures 13 5/8 in. wide by 11 5/8 in. deep by 3 1/2 in. high and weights 15.4 lbs.

The interface unit which plugs into the ST cartridege port is a small 6 by 3 in. box with an outside port for the interface cable that leads to the scanner itself.

Setting up the unit is very easy. Just plug in the power cord and interface cable and your ready to go.

The ST SCAN Instruction Manual is a rather sparce 20 pages but then operation of the scanner with the uncopyprotected software supplied by Navarone is GEM based and almost self explanatory.

Operation of the scanner is indeed quite simple if you are able to get it to work. Which unfortunately I couldn't. After waiting a solid week (okay six days), ST SCAN would only give me a blank screen no matter what I fed through it. Being a rather mature, patient individual, I immediately called Navarone and in a calm voice said "GIMME A NEW ONE!!"

Navarone should be highly commended for being courteous and extremely helpful in their handling of the problem. After stepping through the system with me, we came to the conclusion that the culprit was most likely the interface unit and not the scanner or my ST cartridge port. They shipped me a new unit and this time they shipped it overnight air!

Since I love to tinker with high tech stuff I decided to try to repair the dead interface unit myself. I removed the four small phillips screws which hold the unit together and once opened took a close look at a bunch of chips and wires. There were three small wires on the bottom which were soldered in various places. Suddenly I discovered what the problem might be. One of the wires had come loose! I took some masking tape (I never said I was a service tech) and taped the connection back in place. I reassembled the interface unit, plugged everything back in, booted up the software, fed Navarone's advertising brochure through the scanner at 150 dpi and there it was in living black and white; a complete duplication of the brochure on my ST monitor!

Okay, now back to the basics. Although ST SCAN will work with a 520ST, one drive and a mono or color monitor, there are certain limitations that make it much more suitable for a 1040ST one meg system (2 meg would be even better).

If you have a 520ST and you expect to be able to scan an 8 1/4 by 11 1/2 in. page at 300 dpi, load it into PUBLISHING PARTNER or DEGAS and manipulate it to your hearts content, forget it. You are only allowed to scan a small portion of the document at that resolution through use of a GEM window. This is not a fault of Navarone's system but a memory limitation of my computer. The more memory, the greater area you will be able to scan. Also the lower resolution you use, down to 75 dpi, the greater area you can scan. I had a chance to hook up the system to a friends 1040ST and the scan window was almost three times larger.

For all of us 520ST owners, Navarone has supplied a conversion program on the ST SCAN disk which allows you to break up a scanned image in .IMG format into smaller DEGAS files which can then be edited and reassembled into a large .IMG file that is compatible with PUBLISHING PARTNER.

The Scanner Options Menu allows resolutions at 75, 150, 200 and 300 dpi. Image contrast can be light, normal or dark. The scanning method options of either Line Art or Halftone depend upon what you are scanning. Line art is for drawings, illustrations and logos while halftone is for photographs providing up to 32 shades of gray.

Scanned images can be saved in DEGAS, .IMG or POSTSCRIPT format.
It should be noted that Navarone will soon release a program called ST LASERPAINT which will allow large scanned areas to be edited and saved in .IMG files which will retain their full dpi resolution. When a file is saved in DEGAS format it retains only the current screen resolution.

So whats the bottom line? How do the images look once you have hardcopy on your printer? The answer to that depends on what kind of printer you have.

Navarone makes no bones about it. They state in their manual that "The real power of scanned images are best demonstrated when printing on laser printers". And they are absolutely right. But what about us poor folk who can't afford to spend $5000 on a POSTSCRIPT compatible laser printer? The answer is we don't have to. SoftLogik has more than adequately filled the gap with their excellent dot matrix printer drivers available for PUBLISHING PARTNER. These drivers do an excellent job of reproducing line art images scanned with ST SCAN. Resolution on pictures printed out is a little grainy but again this can be overcome with more memory on your ST combined with shrinking the image in PUBLISHING PARTNER or DEGAS.

I have printed images on my NEC P7 (24 pin dot matrix) and so far am very pleased with the results. Even the photographs printed at 300 dpi look good and rival the results of the video digitizers available for the ST.

But line art on a dot matrix is where ST SCAN

really shines. When you feed good quality sketches, pen drawings or artwork into ST SCAN you'll get almost exact reproduction even at 75 dpi.

Now it's time to get picky. Getting back to the interface unit, one problem I noticed is that the end of the cable which attaches to the interface box was supplied with screws which are not long enough to secure the cable. As a matter of fact they won't even touch the screw holes. This was definitely an engineering oversight as the underneath part of the cable end has to be propped up with something to make sure it doesn't continually put pressure on the interface connection. I slid a blank cassette tape under it which does the job temporarily until I can find some screws that are long enough.

The CANNON XI12 has a flaw which can be irritating at times. Its design includes feeder guides on each side which help to guide the paper as its being fed into the scanner. Cannon assumed apparantly that everyone would be placing an 8 1/4 in. wide sheet of paper in their scanner because the guides won't close any further than that. Consequently, if you have an item with smaller width, it has a tendency to be fed in at an angle unless you quickly quide it through by hand until the scanner grabs it and takes over.

Navarone needs to elaborate on their instruction manual particularly in the areas dealing with DEGAS and .IMG files. I tried to break down an .IMG file into separate DEGAS files using their conversion program supplied on the disk to find that I ended up with two files. One with a .PI3 extender and one with a .CTL extender. The .PI3 file works fine in PUBLISHING PARTNER and DEGAS as a high res. file but I ended up confused as to what the conversion program is all about when you can save a .PI3 file directly from the ST SCAN program.

These are very minor criticisms, however, and do not detract at all from Navarone's excellent product not to mention Cannon's. Incidently, the Cannon XI12 does a good job of reading text as well as images.

I have two warnings for those of you who are considering purchasing the ST SCAN system. The first is that scanning can be very addicting. You know all of those favorite computer magazines you were always reluctant to tear pages out of with the thought that they might be collectors items some day? Well forget it. Nothing is sacred anymore. You will find yourself scanning anyting you can get your hands on, from pictures of your wife or girlfriend to photos of the cat and dog. You definitely won't be cutting and pasting anymore but you'll be tearing a lot of things up.

The second warning is that if like me you own a 520ST you'll have an almost insatiable craving for more ram and will want to upgrade the 520 as far as it will go. You'll want at least two meg of course because that will allow you to get almost full resolution at 300 dpi per scanned page. Besides, I hear that Atari's new laser printer will require about 2 meg to take full advantage of its features. And of course you'll need a hard drive to save all of those huge 300 dpi files .....

P.S. I uploaded a file also in DL5 of a 300 dpi scanned image of yours truely which is in DEGAS format called "RICK.PI3". I used a black and white photo of myself and scanned it in normal halftone.

ST SCAN $1239.95
NAVARONE INDUSTRIES, INC
21109 LONGEWAY RD., SUITE C
SONORA, CALIFORNIA 95370

MINUTES
JULY 6, 1987 MEETING
BAY AREA ATARI USERS GROUP

The meeting was called to order by President Mike (Stretch) Burnam at approximately 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the yard of Bracher School because the group was unable to gain admission to its usual meeting room. Equipment requiring electricity therefore could not be used.

ATARI WORLD: Stretch asked that all tickets which had been put out for sale but not sold be returned to him. He read a list of names of members who helped at the BAAUG booth. Since the list was incomplete, he asked all those who had helped at the booth to stand, and the members present gave an ovation. Stretch also stated that people had loaned equipment who were not even members, and expressed his gratitude.

Atari promised a "little thing" for those who helped at the Atari World Expo, but other groups were better informed than Stretch and got there first. He is attempting to work something out with Sandy.

EIGHT-BIT LIBRARY: Bill Richardson, the 8-bit librarian, discussed the 8-bit library. Any disks that aren't masters are available; copies can be made of the masters when electricity is available!

ST LIBRARY: Bruce Coleman discussed disks available to ST owners. The disk of the month has Time Bandit, also a Gold Runner demo and utility files including arc and dearc. Cathy Standifird said she will have a disk which will give fonts that are close to NLP for those with Epsons and Star printers. She had brought Chessmaster to demo, but was unable because of the lack of electricity.

SWAP MEET: The question was raised whether or not to have a Swap Meet each meeting. A suggestion was made and voted by the group that one be held quarterly instead of monthly, starting with the September meeting.

ARC: There was continuing discussion of Arc. Arc is different from compress, mash, scrunch and shrink because it can be used with individual files, while they can only be used with the whole disk. Arc is also compatible across all systems. Text files can be used on download. An 8-bit file can be downloaded on an ST, de-arced on an 8-bit and played.

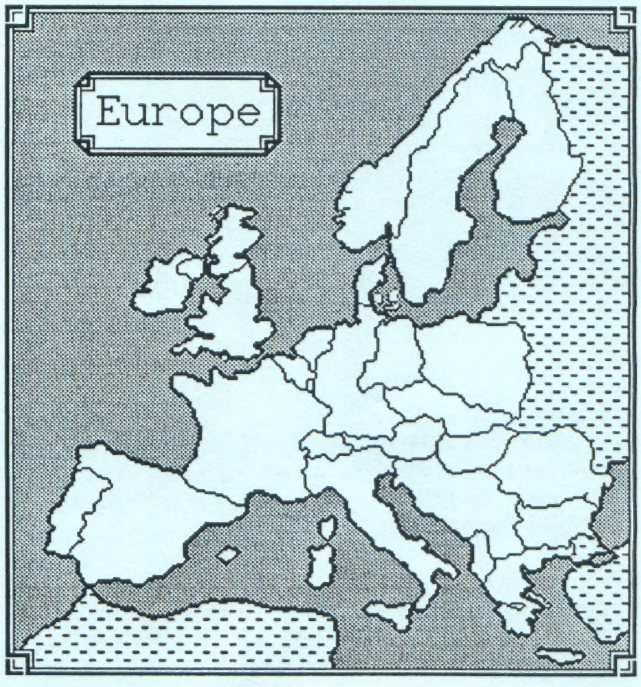
NEW USERS: Bruce asked for users who were at the meeting for the first time to identify themselves, and a number raised their hands. Bruce welcomed them to the "Back to Nature" Atari group, referring to the outdoor setting.

RANDOM ACCESS: Questions were asked and answered by members of the group. Turbobasic was advocated as a worthwhile basic. It can be downloaded from the BAAUG Board. The ST Sig meets next Tuesday; there will be some neat demos. The 8-bit Users Group will meet the third Tuesday of the month at Hewlet Packard.

RAFFLE: Several items were raffled to the members, after which the meeting was adjourned, the time 8:15.

Submitted by:

Sue Tempey, Member-at-Large



ATARI HUNTING IN LONDON

By Bob Moss

This June my wife, younger son and I spent a week in London. In addition to the usual sightseeing and playgoing, we looked into the computer scene. Naturally it was a superficial glance, but we still made some observations which may be of interest.

Computers and computer products are not nearly as widely available as in Silicon Valley. Notably missing are most Japanese and Korean computers, unless they are limited to the business computer stores, which we didn't visit. IBM and Apple are sold in the English equivalent of Computerland or Businessland. We saw several shops in central London for Apple, Amstrad, and IBM. The major department stores such as Harrods and Selfridges have computer departments, and offer mostly Amstrad and other IBM compatibles. We did see a 520ST and Amiga running demos side by side in Selfridges. Otherwise, Commodore was conspicuous by almost total absence. No 8-bit Atari machines were advertised or offered anywhere we chanced to be. There is some 8-bit software available, mostly older games. THe best selection we saw was in Selfridges. In addition to the old ROM versions of Space Invaders, Defender, Gorf, etc., they had discs with from 3 to 6 programs for the equivalent of about $25. There were several different discs, and some programs appeared on 2 or more of the discs, so buying the whole set would give some duplication of games. Most of the programs were old ones long available in the US, like Diamond Mine and Atlantis. They had some Atari programs of dubious value to the English, such as Stock Analysis, and Home Financial Planner. Prices for the hardware were similar to US prices, but in pounds. That made the actual cost more than 60% higher than we would pay. For example, a 520ST with no monitor was 399 pounds, or about $670. With a monochrome monitor the cost was equivalent to about $740.

A large chain of electronics stores named Dixons also carried the ST, and had a sale promotion. THe 520ST was about $700 with monochrome monitor. At no time did we see the megaST or even much notice of the 1040ST. There was limited software on display for the ST, but seldom any 8-bit software. As for hardware, Dixons offered a hard disc for 799 pounds, or about $1340. In general, prices were similar to US prices when quoted in pounds, but the dollar is worth about 60p (English pence) so the actual cost is at least 40% more. The price does include a 15% tax which is refunded to foreigners who leave and take the purchased items home.

We visited the open air market and shops in Petticoat Lane, and found 2 stores that carried software. Both had limited amounts of old Atari games. Most of the software is on casette. Only a few discs and ROM cartridges were on the shelves. Programs tended to be older ones, from the 1979-83 period. Apparently disc drives are either expensive, or not widely available, since few programs were offered on disc.

There are at least 2 computer magazines for Atari users. One is for general users, has about 60 pages, and usually includes a type-in program, reviews, Atari gossip, and the usual ads. The other is for ST users, and has about 72 pages. We found ads for a programmer who is producing and selling new 8-bit programs. He lives in Central London but we couldn't locate the street on any of our maps so we never got a chance to chat with him. The magazines also had ads for hardware and software, and items on user groups. Not many of the vendors were in London. If there is an English version of B & C Computervision or San Jose Computer, we didn't find them in London.

The most popular computer by far in England is the Amstrad, an IBM compatible. It was offered here a few years ago, but the U.S. distributor had a disagreement with Amstrad, and had a parting of the ways. Amstrad computers are hard to find here, and have lots of competition. They did get good reviews. One Amstrad model which was widely available, even in smaller electronics shops, is the PC1512. It costs the equivalent of about $2175 to $2350, and got favorable mention from Stewart Alsop in the June 30-July 13 Computer Currents.

One popular computer item was a chess set for 399 pounds (about $670). It was available in department stores and toy stores. One big toy store, Hamleys, had a large stock of ST programs, mostly Infocom and SST adventure and war games, but very few 8-bit programs.

We weren't in London long enough to seek out any discounters who may offer more reasonable prices, or any English equivalents of swap meets or flea markets for computers, so there may be more activity at lower prices than we were able to find. However, we did conclude that computing is less widespread and more expensive in London than here. The 8-bit Ataris may be around, but they aren't promoted at all and were nowhere to be seen in the stores we visited. If we had more time, it would have been interesting to visit some of the business-related dealers and see what they carry. Maybe next trip.

Subject: COMPUTALK TCS

From: Kris Meier
President of COMPUTALK TSC

Dear Users: I would like to invite you to check out the only Atari BBS in the South that has successfully linked 6 Atari 800's together with the capability of GAB (CB Simulation). COMPUTALK TCS has been in business for 6 years giving Atari owners over 2,000 downloads for both the 8-bit and ST computers. We also have E-Mail, 9 Message Bases, 9 online adventures, User forums, surveys, and now we have just added COMPU-TREK, a graphic online adventure, soon to be multi-user. It will be similar to a "mini" mega-wars. We are a part of PC Pursuit so you are able to call us without long distance charges. We are open 24 hours daily at both 300 and 1200 baud. You may check us out on a trial basis just by entering NEW at the logon prompt. Why not call today and see why COMPUTALK TCS is the Ultimate adventure for your Atari computer. COMPUTALK TCS (817) 589-2588 (without PC Pursuit) (214) 589-2588 (when using PC-Pursuit) Kris Meier (NOTE: B.A.A.U.G. has received a free trial password for this system for user group members who wish to check it out. Call Kathy Standifird if interested.)

Next B.A.A.U.G. meeting will be on Monday, August 3rd We will have a special program to demonstrate the use of a modem; including, how to get around on a bbs, how to up/down load, how to arc and un-arc files and much more. For the purpose of demonstration, we will link a 8-bit with and ST via a null modem cable. The 8-bit will have a bbs and the ST will be the user calling it. The audience will be able to see the action from both the bbs side and the user side at the same time.

STATE ABBREVIATIONS

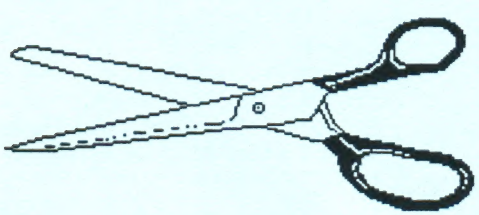
by F.P. Nagle

If your anything like me, when the Post Office went to the two letter state abbreviations I continually got quite a few of the states mixed up. Well, someone with DEGAS had the bright idea to create a state chart which you could use to end this problem forever. All you need to do is cut it out and mount it wherever you do your correspondence. No more state mistakes.

WE NEED YOUR ARTICLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TWO LETTER STATE ABBREVIATION CODES

Alabama	AL	Kentucky	KY	North Dakota	ND
Alaska	AK	Louisiana	LA	Ohio	OH
Arkansas	AR	Maine	ME	Oklahoma	OK
Arizona	AZ	Maryland	MD	Oregon	OR
California	CA	Massachusetts	MA	Pennsylvania	PA
Colorado	CO	Michigan	MI	Rhode Island	RI
Connecticut	CT	Minnesota	MN	South Carolina	SC
Delaware	DE	Mississippi	MS	South Dakota	SD
District of Col	DC	Missouri	MO	Tennessee	TN
Florida	FL	Montana	MT	Texas	TX
Georgia	GA	Nebraska	NE	Utah	UT
Hawaii	HI	Nevada	NV	Vermont	VT
Idaho	ID	New Hampshire	NH	Virginia	VA
Illinois	IL	New Jersey	NJ	Washington	WA
Indiana	IN	New Mexico	NM	West Virginia	WV
Iowa	IA	New York	NY	Wisconsin	WI
Kansas	KA	North Carolina	NC	Wyoming	WY



Notice

NEXT MEETING IS THE SECOND MONDAY !!!

SEPTEMBER 14th

Knarf's Korner

Copyright (c) 1987 by F.P. Nagle

This months column is to be devoted to a review of ZOOMRACKS II by QuickView Systems. Paul Heckel, who has been kind enough to provide me with updated versions of the software, is the talented author of ZOOMRACKS (versions I & II). Upon first getting ZOOMRACKS, I was a little frustrated by the myriad of commands available for use. This was complicated by the first edition of the documentation, it left a little to be desired. Both of these problems were overcome by two things taking place. First, I started using Zoomracks for some simple list tasks, and second, the documentation for later releases was upgraded and made a little more understandable.

Taking the concept of a time card rack, and applying it to the computer was a natural extension. The computer is able to handle many card racks instead of just one. And each rack can be different. The part I like the best though is the variable field (scroll) sizes. Most databases require that you define your records up front, and it's a hassle to change them once you have decided on a size. NOT SO WITH ZOOMRACKS or ZOOMRACKS II!!!

You have varible fields, and can add or delete fields with a minimum effort. Based on this, I find this package to be extremely useful for both keeping track of my address book and notes for work and at home.

I saw a package on the market for the IBM PC which provided a Name and Address book, a supply of labels designed for the book, and a program for creating the labels once you had built your database. The cost was over $75.00!!! With a little thought, since I had already entered the names and addresses I needed into Zoomracks, I improvised.

First step was to stop by the local phone company's office and pick up a FREE NAME AND ADDRESS book. Having a supply of clear (see-through) labels, I designed a form within Zoomracks to create the necessary information for MY name and address book. Oh by the way, a thousand (1000) clear labels cost me $15.00. I printed my set of labels out, stuck them in my free book, and voila, IBM package on the ST! Of course ZOOMRACKS costs a little more than the name and address program on the PC, but it does a lot more than just keeping track of names and addresses.

At the same time, I had been looking at the Day-Timer books that all the local executives seem to be carrying around with them. Why not use Zoomracks to create my own calendar of events and things to do? So, I sat down, designed a new rack of cards, and entered my notes and meeting dates! The notes I produce may not look as classy as the leather Day-Timers, but I didn't spend the $150.00 for the leather book with pre-printed forms. And I'm not really restricted to one page for each day, If a particular day needs more space, a second or third page can be created.

And since I still maintain membership in BAAUG, and like to keep up with other user groups around the country, I also have a version of the membership for BAAUG and the names of other users groups in another set of racks.

Overall, with a little use, I find myself using more and more of the features of Zoomracks, and what was at first difficult has proven to be extremely easy! It just took a little time and practice on my part.

In addition to the racks you build yourself, QuickView also has some starter packs with pre-designed racks. These APPLICATIONS range in price from $19.95 for the Home Starter pack up to $49.95 for a complete set of accounting racks. A more thorough review of these additional racks will be presented in future columns.

My final word: If you're new to computing and need a powerful database, Zoomracks II could prove to be just what you need. As with any package, start simple and work up to the more complicated applications you wish to design. Most of all - READ THE MANUAL - !!!

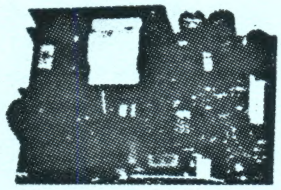
Until next time ----

HAPPY ATARIING !!!

Bay Area Atari Users Group

SWITCHING POWER SUPPLY IDEAL FOR DISK DRIVES

50 WATT
+5V 4 AMP
+12V 3 AMP
4" x 6" x 1¾" **$29.95**



XEBEC 'ACCESS' 10MB EXTERNAL HARD DISK

- IEEE-488 (GPIB/HPIB) Interface
- Attractive Enclosure 12" x 6" H x 10" W
- Linear Power Supply and Fan
- 10 M Tandon Drive
- Brand New

$289.00

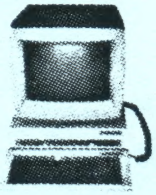
XEBEC IEEE-488 HARD DISK CONTROLLER CARD
$99.00

INTEL SBC 86/30
$395.00

CORVUS CONCEPT WORKSTATION

- 6800 Based System
- 512 Memory
- Connects to Omninet
- 132 Column Monochrome Display
- Display in Vertical or Horizontal Format

USED WORKING CONDITION



$295.00

CORVUS SOFTWARE
FORTRAN, PASCAL & MUCH MORE!
CALL!!!

QBUS SASI HOST ADAPTER

- Made by XEBEC
- Brand New

$35.00

TANDON 10 MEG HARD DRIVE
$119.00
WITH CONTROLLER $179.00

SHUGART SA801R 8" FLOPPY DRIVE

- 600K SSDD
- Still Sealed in Factory Boxes

$149.00

CORVUS MIRROR SERVER
VCR HARD DISK BACKUP FOR CORVUS OMNINENT
NEW!!! **$25.00**

CORVUS Utility Server Printer Interface For Omninet
Includes Manual & Software
NEW! **$35.00**

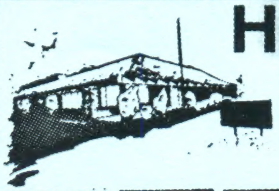
4 PIN MODULAR WALL JACK WITH STRAIN RELIEF
10 for $4.00 Case of 325 for $99.00

XEBEC 1410 SASI HARD DISK CONTROLLER
$99.00

HALF HEIGHT EXTERNAL DRIVE ENCLOSURE

- Attractive Low Profile Chassis 19x15x2¾
- Fits nicely directly under PC
- Standard IBM Colors
- Bezel for 5¼" and 3½" Drive
- 60 Watt P.S. w/DC Fan and Drive Cables

$89.95/$29.95
complete chassis only



HALTED SPECIALTIES CO., INC.

827 E. EVELYN AVE., SUNNYVALE, CA 94086

MAIL ORDERS CALL: (408) 732-1573

3 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

HSC Electronic Supply of Santa Rosa
6819 S. Santa Rosa Ave.
Cotati, CA
(707) 792-2357

HSC Electronic Supply
5549 Hemlock Street
Sacramento, CA
(916) 338-2548

Store Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 8:00-7:00
Saturday 9:00-5:00

MasterCard VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS

WE SHIP C.O.D.

TERMS: Minimum order $10.00. California residents add 7% sales tax. Prepaid orders sent freight C.O.D. or call for charges, shipping will be added to credit card and C.O.D. orders. Prepaid orders over $100.00 use money order or certified check. Please do not send cash. Some items limited to stock on hand. Prices subject to change.

HOT-LINE / HELP-LINE

Gordon Anderson (408) 247-4794 Eves. New Users Group/SIG
Richard Anderson (408) 281-8139 Eves. 7-10 Ques. ranging from Telecommunications to Letter, Data & Spell Perfect. Geneology SIG.
Loretta Colbourn (408) 972-4456 General questions.
Bruce Coleman (408) 288-7376 Eves 8-11 except Thurs. 8-bit Gereral Use, BASIC, BASIC XL
John Crane (408) 268-7317 days, 447-6804 eves. general computer questions, BASIC & FORTH.
Gary Furr (mail only) P.O.Box 1073, Mountain View, CA 94042-1073; questions on Atariwriter & printer drivers.
Rich Lewis (408) 985-0251 Eve. 6-9 BASIC, Atari Desktop, Atariwriter, ACTION, 8-bit general.
Gene McCreary (408) 629-7494 eves. 8-9:30, general computer use. BASIC, ASSEMBLY.
Mike Morrow (415) 570-7478 Personal Pascal for ST
Steve Quigley (408) 297-4790 eves. 8-Bit Beginners and Educational Software, general questions.
Bill Richerson (408) 446-2242 Speedscript, BASIC, ASSEMBLY, 825 & 1020 Printers, Electronics Projects/parts & help.
John Schreier (408) 281-8930 eves. 6-9 ST questions.

INFORMATION

This newsletter is published monthly by the BAY AREA ATARI USERS GROUP located in the heart of Silicon Valley and the backyard of Atari (U.S.) Corp. We accept commercial advertising as a way of offsetting the publication costs at the following rates:

FULL PAGE - $50.00	QUARTER PAGE - $15.00
HALF PAGE - $30.00	BUSINESS CARD - $10.00

Camera ready ad copy should be supplied by the first week of the month for publication in the next month's newsletter. Every attempt will be made to include your ad in the appropriate issue. The publishers reserve the right to hold copy if space and time are not available.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Articles are accepted in any format, but upload to the BAAUG BBS is PREFERRED. (408) 358-1520.

YOU CAN BE ONE OF THE HOT-LINE/HELP-LINE VOLUNTEERS. JUST LET US KNOW YOU WANT TO HELP.

BAY AREA ATARI USERS GROUP
P.O. BOX 50459
PALO ALTO, CA 94303

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No, 765
Santa Clara, CA

DON'T FORGET - SEPTEMBER MEETING IS THE 14th - THE SECOND MONDAY

CHECK LABEL FOR RENEWAL DATE